

Judicial Administration Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

**Minutes**  
May 11, 2001

The Judicial Administration Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center in Indianapolis on Friday, May 11, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Scott R. Bowers; Roland W. Chamblee; Steven M. Fleece, George J. Heid, John L. Kellam, Richard T. Payne, Tanya Walton Pratt; P. Thomas Snow; David L. Welch and Frances C. Gull, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Others present. Jim Jezek; Lilia Judson, State Court Administrator's Office; Brianne O'Brian and Andy Hutcherson, Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory were also present.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes of the committee on January 12, 2001 were approved.
5. Special judge time. Lilia Judson, Executive Director, State Court Administrator's Office asked the committee to discuss accounting for special judge time in the weighted caseload statistics. Jim Jezek stated that in Colorado a letter is sent from the Chief Justice requesting the trial judge hear special judge cases. They use a footnote in their statistics to account for the time. The committee agreed by consensus to consider this question at the next meeting.
6. Update Study - Judicial Weighted Caseload Measures.
  - a. Mr. Jim Jezek reviewed the judge time and the case file audit portions of the judicial weighted caseload measures project with the committee members. He distributed the following four preliminary reports to committee members: (1) Count of Entries on the Times Study Sheet by County; (2) Type of Case, Type of Action and the Time Recorded by All Judicial Officers; (3) Entries By County; and (4) List of Time Recorded by Judicial Officers by Case Type and Type of Action. He noted the outlier numbers had not been removed. The committee agreed by consensus to remove the bottom 2½ % and top 2½ % of numbers as was done in the study before to improve reliability of the judge time numbers. The committee expressed concern about the few recorded times for Capital Murder and Termination of Parental Rights cases. They agreed to the following for the next meeting:
    - (1) Group the judge times for Capital Murder, Murder, A, B, and C felonies together for comparison;
    - (2) Compare times from the same categories in the last study in 1995 to this one. (Ex: Domestic Relations – 1995 and 2000 judge times);
    - (3) Have Mr. Jezek call the National Center for State Courts and/or the Bureau of Justice Statistics to get national times for capital murder cases and jury trial times;
    - (4) Remove items like community transition from civil categories; replace sentencing from civil categories insert judgment;
    - (5) Compare 1995 and 2000 non-case related judge times via a table or chart;
    - (6) Distribute an email list of committee members.

b. Mr. Andy Hutcherson, I.U. Public Opinion Laboratory, distributed a file audit form to the committee members based on the one used in 1995. He discussed the problems he has had getting a return call from the Marion County Justice Agency to get statistical information. He explained Marion County's file audit should be completed first for training and proximity purposes. Mr. Bercovitz described his efforts. Judge Pratt agreed to assist in making this contact. The committee agreed that if a meeting is arranged next week, the file audits should begin with Johnson, Boone, Hancock, Monroe and Tippecanoe counties. The committee agreed to audit 1999 and 2000 closed cases and cases closed and redocketed in order to determine the average number of judicial actions in a case.

7. Next meeting. The committee agreed to meet again Friday, June 8, July 13 and August 10, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.; September 12, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon in conjunction with the Judicial Conference; Friday, October 12, November 9, 2001, and Friday, January 11 and February 8, 2002, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law